

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are allowed. Claim 20 is cancelled. Claim 14 is amended. No new subject matter is added. Claims 1-19 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are allowed.

Claim 20 is objected to, but is otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claim. In keeping with this suggestion, claim 14 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 20, and claim 20 is cancelled, thereby placing claims 14-19 in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akasaka, et al. (US 6,893,980) in view of Hashimoto, et al. (US 6,022,586). The rejection is rendered moot in light of the amendment of claim 14 described above.

Conclusion

For the reasons presented above, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is requested. Please telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,
MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.


Todd J. Iverson
Reg. No. 53,057

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW Morrison Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
503-222-3613
Customer No. 20575